

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DOTE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7004

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 10751

USEEC

DEPT PASS DOT FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY BUTCHMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: MARITIME MATTERS

1. FOLLOWING MEETING AT COMMISSION BETWEEN SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ADAMS, COMMISSIONER BURKE AND SUPPORTING STAFFS, BURKE PRIVATELY GAVE THE SECRETARY AND MYSELF A CANDID ASSESSMENT OF PROSPECTS FOR ACTION AT JUNE 12 COMMUNITY TRANSPORT MINISTERS MEETING AND THEN MADE A SUGGESTION AS TO HOW THE US GOVERNMENT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO UNBLOCKING A NUMBER OF KEY MARITIME ISSUES.

2. BURKE'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH THE COMMUNITY POSITION INTENDED TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF MEMBER STATE AND COMMUNITY RATIFICATION OF THE UN CONVENTION OF A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER CONFERENCES. AT THE SAME TIME HE BELIEVES THAT THE FRENCH, UNLESS THE ABOVE ITEM IS RESOLVED ON A COMMUNITY BASIS, WILL BLOCK COUNCIL ACTIONS ON DECISIONS RELATING TO THE ACTIVITIES OF STATE TRADING COMPANIES IN CARGO LINER
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SHIPPING. HE ALSO FEARS THAT DISAGREEMENT ON THESE TWO ITEMS WILL COMPLICATE ACHIEVEMENT OF COUNCIL ACCORD CALLING FOR RAPID RATIFICATION OF SEVERAL INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS RELATING TO POLLUTION, SAFETY, AND NAVIGATION. DETAILS CONCERNING STATUS OF THESE MARITIME PROPOSALS BEING PROVIDED SEPTEL.

3. COMMISSIONER BURKE THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WERE THE US IN A POSITION TO INDICATE WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE SERIOUSLY ACCESSION TO THE UN CONVENTION WITH THE CLEAR DEROGATION THAT WITHIN THE OECD AREA COMMERCIAL COMPETITION FOR CARGO ALLOCATION WOULD BE FREE, I.E., NOT SUBJECT TO THE PROPOSED UN CONVENTION RULES, SUCH AN INDICATION FROM US COULD PROVE CRITICAL IN UNBLOCKING THE ENTIRE PACKAGE OF MEASURES BEFORE THE EC MINISTERS.

4. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT OUR POSITION TOWARD THE UN CONVENTION WAS UNDER REVIEW IN WASHINGTON. WE DOUBT THAT THAT REVIEW CAN BE COMPLETED IN TIME TO AFFECT JUNE 12 COUNCIL AND INDEED EC INACTION ON THE UN CODE MAY BE IN OUR INTEREST. ON THE OTHER HAND, AS SEEN FROM HERE, PROPOSED EC ACTION ON STATE TRADING MARITIME PRACTICES AND ON EARLY RATIFICATION OF THE SAFETY CONVENTIONS, ETC., WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST. WERE THERE INTEREST IN WASHINGTON IN DISCUSSING THESE POSSIBILITIES, COMMISSIONER BURKE INDICATED WILLINGNESS ON SHORT NOTICE FOR COMMISSION STAFF TO RECEIVE US OFFICIALS FOR SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

5. SECRETARY ADAMS HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE. HINTON

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